



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

American Legion Update

January 17, 2020

Update presented by

Commissioner Keith L. Jackson

Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Ret)



Agenda

- Introductions/New Appointments
- KDVA Organization
- Veterans Benefits Branch
- State Veteran Centers
- State Veteran Cemeteries
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Women Veterans Program
- KyVETS Program
- Veterans Program Trust Fund
- Capital Projects
- Additional Budget Requests (Funding Priorities)
- Legislative Update
- Recent Successes & Major Events



Introductions

CW5(R) Dean Stoops

Deputy Commissioner

MSG (R) Al Duncan

Cemeteries Branch Manager

Corey Ann Jackson

Budget Manager/Policy Advisor



Introduction

Sixth Commissioner of the
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Keith L. Jackson

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



KDVA Organization

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



3 January 2020

Lt. Col. (Ret) Keith L. Jackson
Commissioner

CW5 (Ret) Dean E. Stoops
Deputy Commissioner



Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers (OKVC)

729 of 995 positions filled = 73%

Rick Schad
Chief of Staff

Dennis Shepherd
General Counsel

Corey Ann Howard-Jackson
Budget/Fiscal Manager

Stephanie Belt
Budget Specialist II

Lisa Aug
Public Information Officer

John Ostroske
Human Resources Manager

April Brown
Veteran Employment & Training

Eileen Ward
Homeless Veterans Coordinator

Candace Bradley
Women Veterans Coordinator

Brooke Groves
Admin Specialist

Debbie Childers
Staff Assistant

Alvin Duncan
Branch Manager
KY Veterans Cemeteries

Richard Stanley, Director
KY Veterans Cemetery West
Hopkinsville, KY (Christian County)

Charles Heater, Director
KY Veterans Cemetery Central
Radcliff, KY (Hardin County)

Cathy Taylor, Director
KY Veterans Cemetery North
Williamstown, KY (Grant County)

Frank Kees, Director
KY Veterans Cemetery North East
Grayson, KY (Greenup County)

Vaughda Wooten, Director
KY Veterans Cemetery South East
Hyden, KY (Leslie County)

Donna Scrivener
Branch Manager
Field Opns/Benefits Branch

Annette Clausen
Admin Specialist III

VACANT
Benefits Training Coordinator

VACANT
Appeals Coordinator

Ed Day
Ron Hudson
Monica Acob
Regional Administrators

23 Veteran Benefit Field
Representatives
Statewide

Mark Bowman
Executive Director

Martha Workman
Deputy Executive Director

Ophelia Ayres & VACANT
Nurse Consultants

Joni Gosser, Administrator
Thompson-Hood Veterans Center
Wilmore, KY (Jessamine County)

Neil Napier, Administrator
Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center
Hazard, KY (Perry County)

LaDonna Scott, Administrator
Western Kentucky Veterans Center
Hanson, KY (Hopkins County)

Ed Thompson, Acting Administrator
Radcliff Veterans Center
Radcliff, KY (Hardin County)

Michael Rodgers
Budget Specialist II

Cemeteries, Field Operations, & Office of the
Commissioner (CFOC)

68 of 73 positions filled = 93%



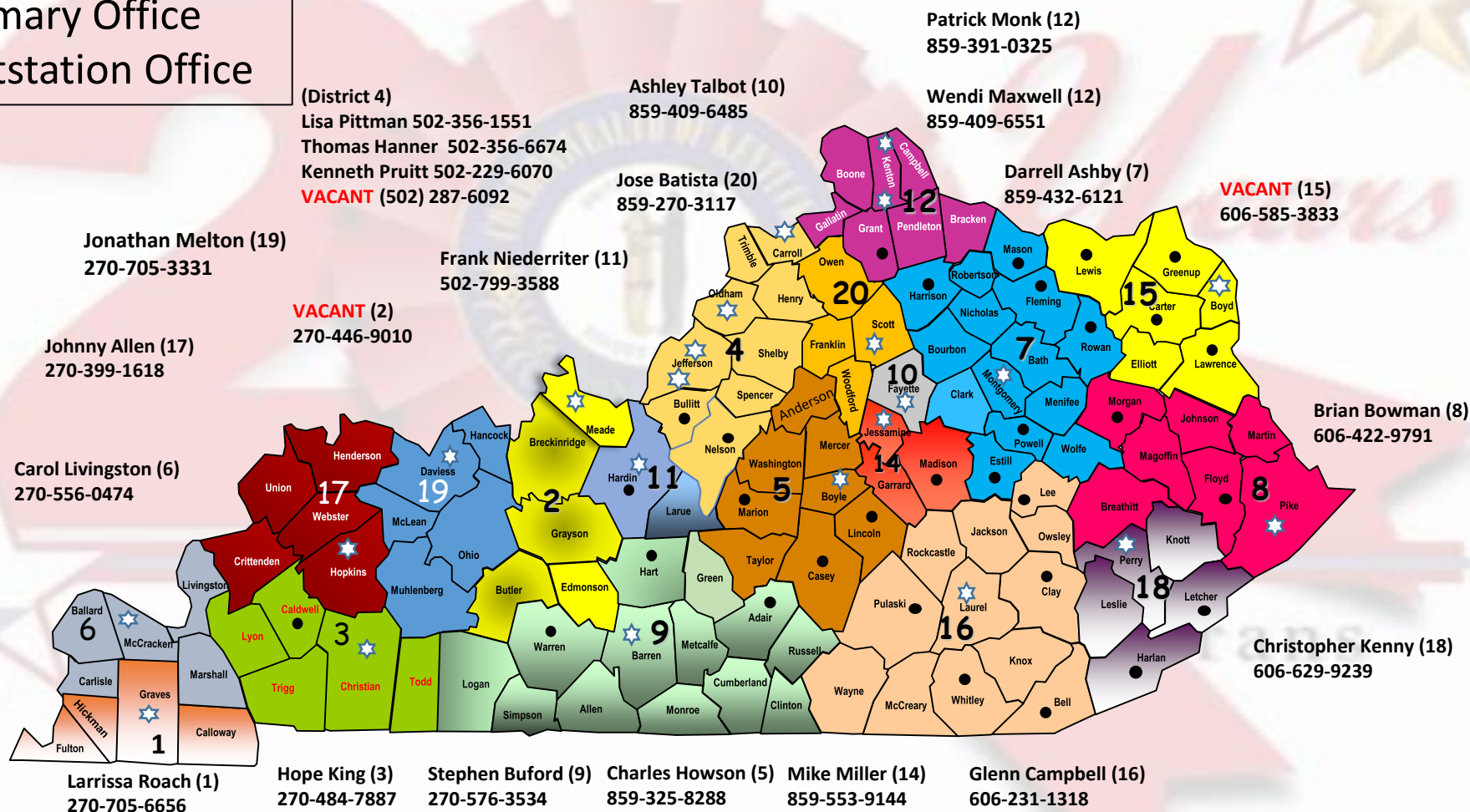
Benefits Branch

- KRS 40.317 directs the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist veterans and their families in obtaining earned veterans' benefits from the federal government.
- These benefits may include, but are not limited to
 - healthcare,
 - employment services,
 - rehabilitation services,
 - educational assistance,
 - housing services,
 - disability compensation, and
 - pension benefits.
- Field Services Branch consists of a Branch Manager, administrative staff, 3 Regional Administrators, and 23 Veteran Benefit Field Representatives (VBFRs) in 19 district offices strategically located across the Commonwealth.
- These field reps process approximately 350 claims per month and represent ~22% of Kentucky's ~300,000 veterans.

Benefits Branch Field Offices

23 Field Representatives in 19 Districts

- ☆ Primary Office
- Outstation Office



Revised 10 January 2020

- Covington Field Office opens 22 January 2020 at the Kenton County Administration Building, 1840 Simon Kenton Way, Room 3008, Covington, KY.
- Harrodsburg Field Office moving to Danville National Guard Armory, 482 Stanford Ave, Danville, KY. Opening for business on 15 February 2020.

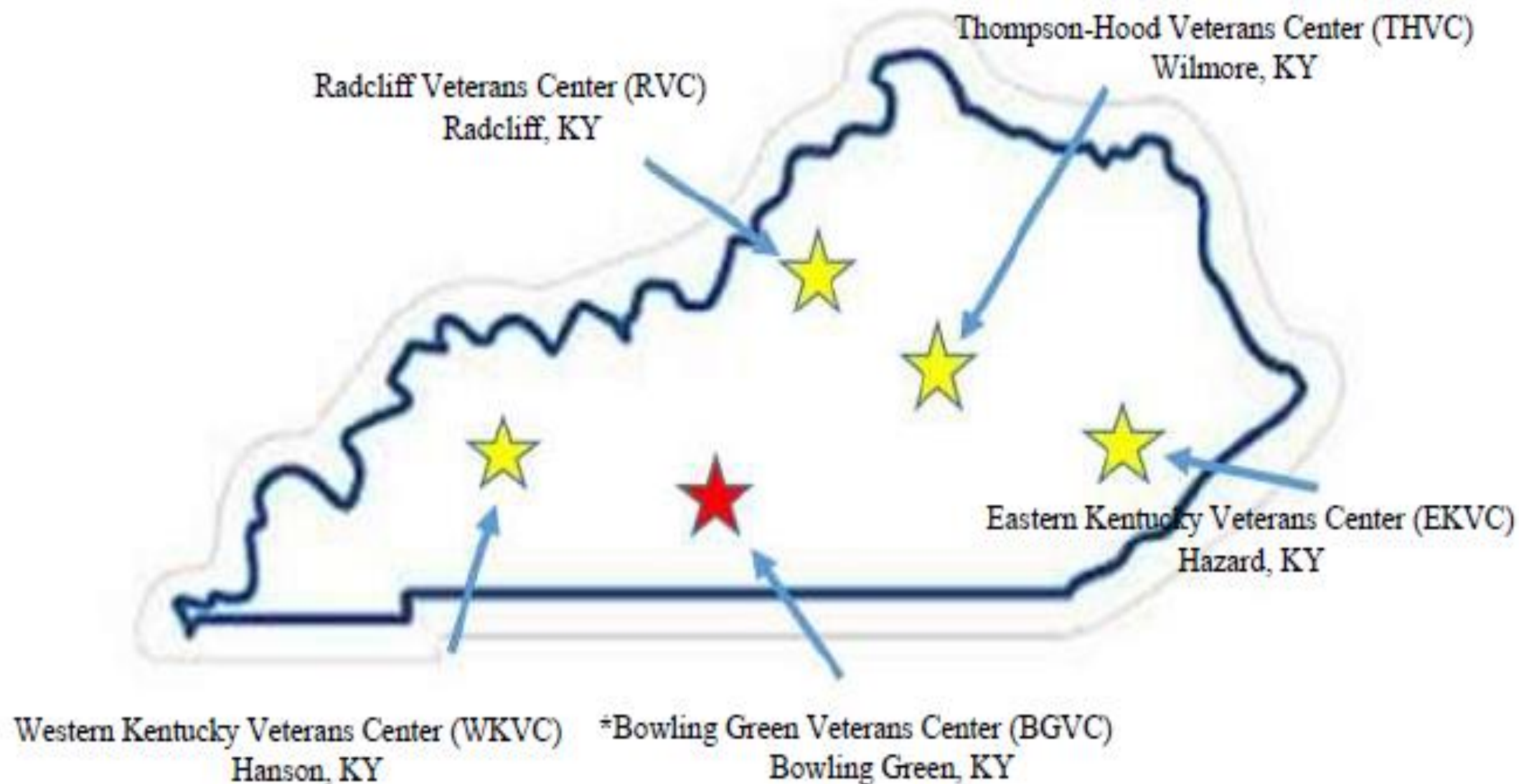


Veteran Centers

- Pursuant to KRS 40.325, the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA), Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers (OKVC), headed by an Executive Director, administers the four (4) Kentucky state veterans' homes ("SVHs").
- With a staff of 700+ employees, OKVC is responsible for the care of approximately 450+ veterans and provides the highest level of quality support, skilled nursing, and long-term care for the men and women who served honorably on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Top Rated Veterans Centers** - In October 2019, **for the first time ever – all of Kentucky's state veterans long-term care centers earned the top rating (5-Stars)** from the federal agency that oversees long-term care facilities.* The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily.

*Nursing Home Compare (24 October 2019). The official U.S. government site for Medicare. Retrieved from <https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

Veteran Centers



Veteran Centers

As of 1 January 2020



**Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
(Jessamine County)**

151/285 = 53% (-3% from last month)
Opened in 1991



**Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
(Hopkins County)**

90/156 = 58% (+2% from last month)
Opened in 2002



**Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
(Perry County)**

113/120 = 92% (+2% from last month)
Opened in 2013



**Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
(Hardin County)**

67/120 = 55% (-5% from last month)
Opened in 2017

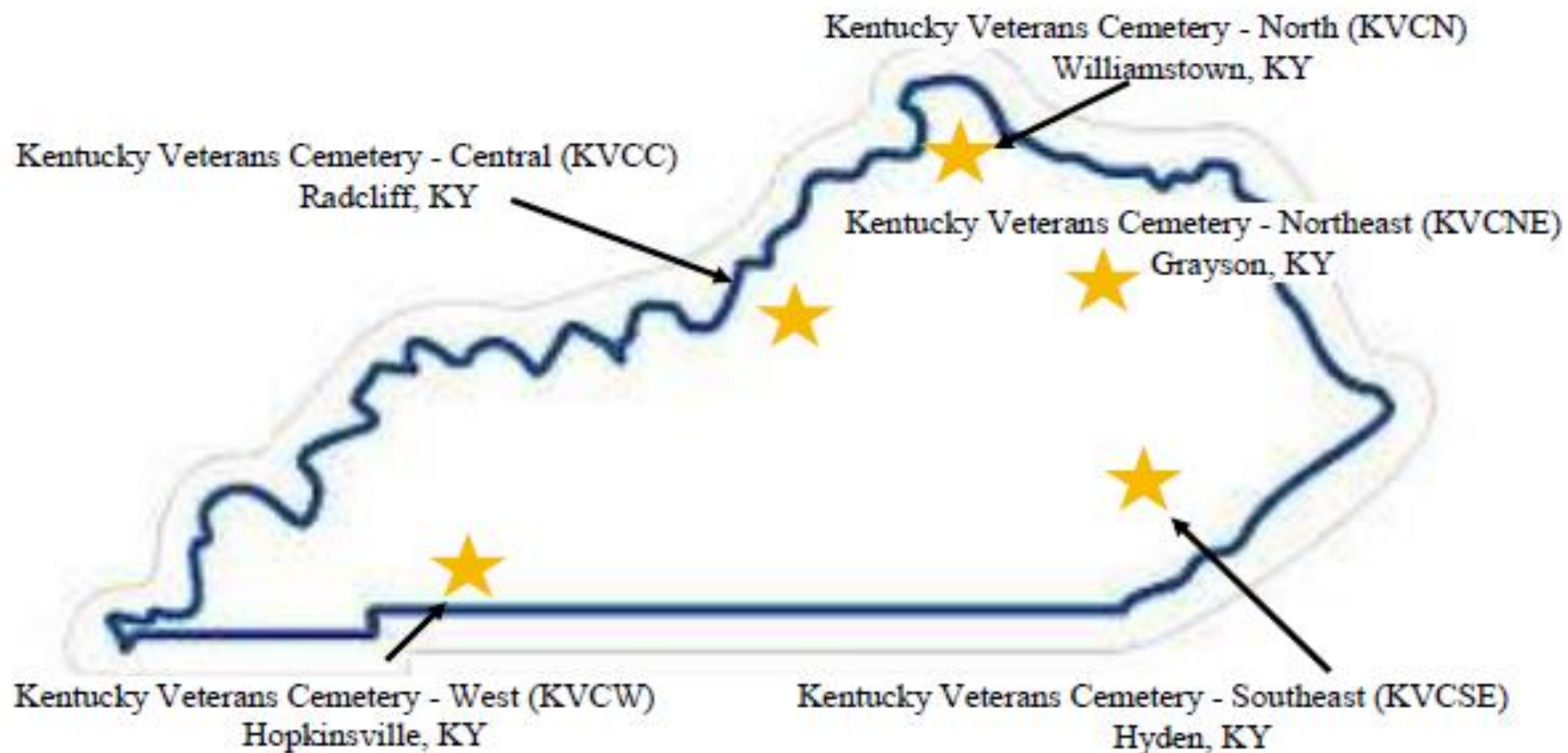


Veteran Cemeteries

- The Cemeteries Branch consists of five (5) operational state veterans cemeteries located throughout the Commonwealth.
- KRS 40.315 directs KDVA to establish, operate and maintain these cemeteries for the interment of our Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve personnel, military veterans, and their eligible dependents.
- This is accomplished with Veterans Cemetery Grants from the U.S. Veterans Administration. One hundred percent of the construction and the initial equipping of a new state veterans cemetery are funded through a federal grant. The state of Kentucky then assumes the responsibility for total operational expenses once established.
- **Top Rated Veterans Cemetery** - In July 2019, the National Cemetery Administration visited Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North (KVCN) in Williamstown, KY. Following a rigorous inspection, the cemetery received an overall compliance percentage of **96 percent**.* And was rated as one of the **top State Veteran Cemeteries in the country** for 2019.

*National Cemetery Administration (1 August 2019). Veterans Cemetery Grants Compliance Review Program; *Preliminary Findings Report for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North*

Veteran Cemeteries



Veterans Cemeteries

As of 1 January 2020

KVCW, Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY



Opened March 1, 2004

Interments:

Veterans	3,322
Dependents	<u>1,232</u>
Total	4,554

Cremated	1,335
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KVCC, Radcliff, Hardin County, KY



Opened June 1, 2007

Interments:

Veterans	5,377
Dependents	<u>1,334</u>
Total	6,711

Cremated	2,113
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KVCN, Williamstown, Grant County, KY



Opened Aug 22, 2008

Interments:

Veterans	1,532
Dependents	<u>347</u>
Total	1,879

Cremated	731
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Total: 14,342



KVCNE, Grayson, Greenup County, KY



Opened October 1, 2010

Interments:

Veterans	938
Dependents	<u>216</u>
Total	1,154

Cremated	351
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KVCSE, Hyden, Leslie County, KY



Opened May 1, 2018

Interments:

Veterans	38
Dependents	<u>6</u>
Total	44

Cremated	13
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Funeral Honors Stipend

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BURIAL HONORS PROGRAM
1111 Louisville Road, Suite B, Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone 1-502-564-9283 Fax: 1-502-564-9240
KDVA.AccountsPayable@ky.gov

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION REQUEST FOR HONORS STIPEND

A Veterans Service Organization (VSO) shall submit this form when requesting stipend for performing military burial honors. The responsibility for proper completion and submission of this form rests with the VSO. Stipends will be paid at the rate indicated below in Part Two of this form, not to exceed \$60.00 for each ceremony.

- VSOs must verify the service of the veteran for whom the burial honors are being performed.
- Honors performed for veterans buried outside of the Commonwealth of Kentucky are not compensable.
- All stipend requests must be submitted to KDVA within 90 days of burial honors being performed.
- Submit stipend request to KDVA.AccountsPayable@ky.gov or via fax (502) 564-9240.

PART ONE: Deceased Veteran Information

Name of Veteran: _____
Character of Discharge: _____
Service Verified By DD-214 ☐ Yes ☐ No Dates of Military Service: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Rank: _____ Date Honors Performed: _____
Location of Honors: City: _____ County: _____
Branch of Service: ☐ U.S. Army ☐ U.S. Navy ☐ U.S. Air Force
☐ U.S. Marine Corps ☐ U.S. Coast Guard ☐ Other (specify) _____

PART TWO: VSO Performing Honors

VSO Post Name and #: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
State Vendor ID #: _____
Point of Contact (please print): _____ Phone #: () _____
Was deceased veteran a member of the post conducting honors? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Military Honors performed (check boxes that apply):
☐ Full Honors (Flag Folding/Presentation, Firing Detail (3 Firers Minimum), & Taps by Bugle): \$60
☐ Rifle Team Firing Detail (3 Firers Minimum), & Taps by Live Bugler or Ceremonial Bugle: \$50
☐ Flag Folding/Presentation, (No Firing Detail), & Taps by Live Bugler or Ceremonial Bugle: \$35
☐ Flag Folding/Presentation, (No Firing Detail), & Taps by CD: \$25
☐ Taps by Live Bugler or Ceremonial Bugle: \$10
*Note: Taps by CD or Recording Device only is not compensable: \$0

Signature of Post Honor Guard Commander or Adjutant: _____ Date: _____

PART THREE: Funeral Director Verification

Military honors performed in an acceptable manner. ☐ Yes ☐ No
(If no, please provide comments on a separate piece of paper or call KDVA.)
Name of Funeral Home: _____
City: _____ Phone #: () _____
Printed Name: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

KDVA FORM (01-20) All Previous versions of this form are obsolete
You can download the most recent version of this form at:
KDVA Web site at <http://www.veterans.ky.gov>

- VSOs must verify the service of the veteran for whom the burial honors are being performed.
- Honors performed for veterans buried outside of the Commonwealth of Kentucky are not compensable.
- All stipend requests must be submitted to KDVA within 90 days of burial honors being performed.
- Ensure the VSO Post Name and Number is correct
- The VSO must be registered as a State Vendor and received a State Vendor ID Number. That Vendor ID Number will start with a **KY** or **KS**.
- VSO's must register for a State Vendor # at <https://finance.ky.gov/services/eprocurement/Pages/doingbusiness.aspx>
- For additional information, contact the Burial Honors Program Coordinator at 502-782-5731 or e-mail a Alvin.Duncan@ky.gov



Homeless Veterans Program

- Provides onetime direct financial assistance up to **\$350 (\$500 maximum)** to veterans facing eviction/utility cut off or to assist with temporary housing.
- Directs homeless veterans and their families to appropriate federal, state and local agencies to assist with transient housing, food, clothing, and employment assistance.
- Assists homeless veterans and those at risk, file for VA benefits, healthcare, and pensions as appropriate.
- KDVA is a major supporter of Operation Victory in Louisville. Three homes rehabilitated and provided to homeless veterans in the past two years.
 - The third Operation Victory home on Parthenia Ave is expected to be completed in December.
 - Operation Victory will begin construction on the forth home as soon as Parthenia Ave project is completed.
 - Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 3 homes through Operation Victory.
- Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator is Eileen Ward,
(502) 782-5730, email eileen.ward@ky.gov



Homeless Veterans Program

Financial Assistance

FY 2019 (1 Jul 18-30 Jun 19)

Total assistance paid out	\$62,457.65
Avg. per veteran	\$243.98

Veterans assisted with Housing	131
Veterans assisted with Utilities	<u>125</u>
Total veterans assisted	256

FY 2020 (1 Jul 19 to Present)

Total assistance paid out	\$80,725.14
Avg. per veteran	\$325.50

Veterans assisted with housing	152
Veterans assisted with Utilities	82
Veterans assisted with emergency shelter	11
Veterans helped with other	<u>3</u>
Total veterans assisted	248



Women Veterans Program

- Email address
women.veterans@ky.gov
- There are ~24,000 women veterans in Kentucky.
- Women Veterans Newsletter.
- Women Veterans' Town Hall Meeting:
 - We are seeking feedback on women veterans' issues in preparation for a future women veterans' conference 2020
 - We will publish several dates for Town Hall meetings
- Please share any women veterans events with KDVA for us to post on our web page and social media.
- Women Veterans Program Coordinator Candace Bradley, cell 502-545-4193, email candace.bradley@ky.gov



“Have You Served” Outreach Campaign

Something New

Goal: Reach the thousands of women veterans in Kentucky who are not seeking benefits and services because they don't think of themselves as “veterans.”

Action: Enlist state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations to ask their clients for veterans information. Provide to these partners promotional materials for KDVA's “Have You Served” campaign. Offer educational briefings to agency heads, elected officials, PIOs, etc., on why “Have You Served” is a more effective and accurate question than “Are You a Veteran?”

KDVA's work brings hundreds of millions of dollars into Kentucky every year through veteran benefits. Those benefits are direct transfers from the federal government to veterans and their families. Every veteran we reach for whom we can obtain benefits is a net increase in revenue for the Commonwealth.

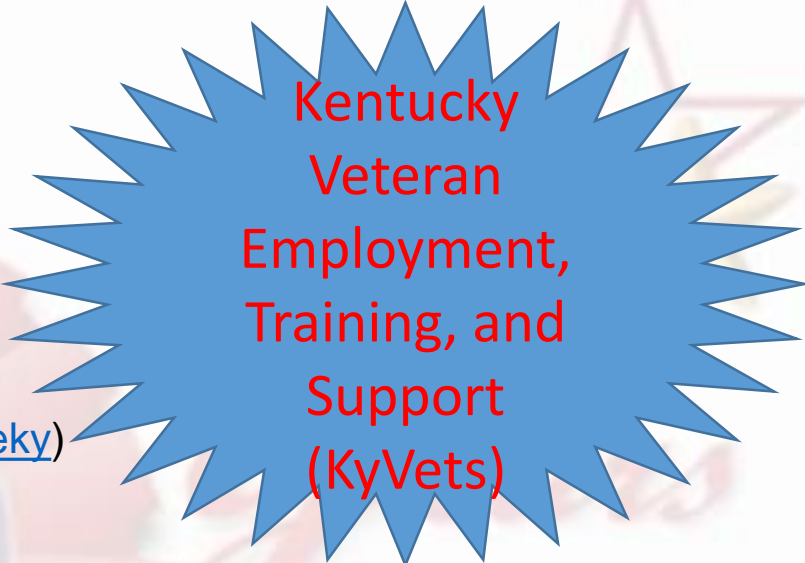
Every veteran we fail to reach – especially women veterans – is a veteran not served by KDVA.



Employment Support Program

KyVets Veteran Services:

- Resume review and update
- Referral to employers
- Referral to other resources
- Education & Training
- HireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)



Kentucky
Veteran
Employment,
Training, and
Support
(KyVets)

KyVets Employer Services:

- Education on why hiring veterans is good business
- Matching veterans skills and experience to employer needs
- Free advertisement of positions
- Top talent referrals
- HireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)

KyVETS Program Coordinator is April Brown, (502) 782-5735,
email april.brown@ky.gov or kyvets@ky.org



Please email any upcoming job fairs or job listings for us to post on our web page and social media.

Veterans Program Trust Fund



- The Veterans Program Trust Fund (VPTF) supports many veteran programs and projects throughout Kentucky but for which other funds are not available.
- The VPTF is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. The board meets several times per year.
- The VPTF receives a steady stream of revenue from a \$5 fee that is associated with the initial purchase and annual renewal of Veteran and Military license plates, as well as tax deductible contributions from private and corporate donors.

Last Meeting 9 January 2020

- 10 Grant Applicants
- 9 Grants Approved

Total Obligated \$157,000.00



Next Meeting 15 April 2020

- 8 Grant Application Slots
- Deadline for submitting grant applications is 14 February 2020



KDVA Capital Projects 2020-2022

1. KDVA Maintenance Pool	\$1,000,000
2. THVC Resurface Driveway & Parking Lot	\$1,000,000
3. RVC Construct Staff Parking Lot	\$450,000
4. KVCC Resurface Parking Lot	\$300,000
5. THVC Dishwasher and Hood Vent Replacement	\$200,000
6. EKVC Facility Roof Replacement	\$400,000
7. WKVC Heat Tape Repair/New Water Temp Control System	\$300,000
8. WKVC HVAC Replacement	\$1,000,000
9. RVC Outside Storage Building	\$200,000
10. EKVC Replace Cooling Towers	\$400,000
11. WKVC Replace Cooling Tower	\$350,000
12. THVC Steam Boiler Replacement	\$300,000
13. Construct Bowling Green Veterans Center (Warren County)	\$30,000,000

General Funds **\$12,240,000**

Federal Funds **\$22,660,800**

Total **\$35,900,000**



Additional Budget Requests 2020-2022

	FY20-21 Requested	FY21-22 Requested
1. Defined Calculations (COT, Fleet, retirement increase, healthcare costs, etc.)	\$2,127,100	\$2,873,300
2. Competitive Salaries for Nursing Staff	\$7,492,600	\$7,530,100
3. Fill Veteran Centers Nursing & Non-Nursing Staff Vacancies	\$6,408,100	\$6,421,700
4. Fund Nurse Student Loan Repayment Program	\$240,000	\$240,000
5. Fund 20 Additional Veteran Benefit Field Representatives	\$1,412,800	\$1,792,100
6. Fund Homeless Veterans Program	\$200,000	\$200,000
7. Fund VSO Burial Honors Program	\$342,000	\$348,000
8. Fund Indigent Burial Program	\$35,000	\$35,000
9. Fund CFOC Vacancies	\$605,500	\$709,200
10. Fund CFOC Salary Increases	\$705,400	\$806,600
11. Fund Fleet Vehicles for VBFRs and Vet Cemetery Auto Technician	\$345,100	\$100,100
12. Fund Salary Increase for Vet Centers Non-nursing Staff	\$1,321,800	\$1,334,200
13. Debt Service for Bowling Green Veterans Center	\$865,000	\$865,000
Total Additional Budget Request	\$22,100,300	\$23,260,300



Veterans Legislation 2019 Enacted

- **HB 296**: Creates a student loan repayment program for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who will be employed by KDVA
- **HB 323**: Grants occupational license reciprocity to members of the reserve, National Guard, veterans, and their spouses
- **HB 338**: Gives interview preference for state jobs to service members and their families
- **SB 55**: Adds a veterans-at-risk "Green Alert" to the "Golden Alert" System
- **HB 243**: Requires Kentucky State Police to provide personal protection to Kentucky Medal of Honor recipients at public events and ceremonies
- **HB 316**: Allows service members who receive official orders requiring relocation to terminate or suspend select services without penalty or fee
- **HB 356**: Allows service members, spouses and dependents to maintain residency status after being accepted or enrolled in a Kentucky public postsecondary institution, if the service member receives official orders to relocate
- **HB 399**: Allows military families moving into the state on official orders to pre-enroll their children in a school district before obtaining an address



Veterans Advocacy

2020 Legislative Priorities

1. HB 24: Fund Bowling Green Veterans Center design and preconstruction. (Reps. M. Meredith, P. Minter, J. Petrie, P. Pratt, M. Prunty, B. Reed, S. Riley, B. Rowland, S. Sheldon, W. Stone, W. Thomas, K. Upchurch)
2. HB 36: Exempt Veteran Service Organizations from property tax. (Rep. M. Koch)
3. HB 92 & HB 95: Exempt Military Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits from State Income Tax to make KY competitive with surrounding states. (HB 92 Rep. W. Thomas and HB 95 Rep. C. Massey)
4. Allow certification as a Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for verification and evaluation who meet the criteria of veteran eligibility, ownership, and control. (Potential Sponsor)
5. HB 276: Clarify eligibility for a special military license plate and provide for a special military license plate for spouses of veterans. (Rep S. Heavrin)
6. HB 277: Allow veterans who are paid at the 100 percent rate for service-connected disabilities by the USDVA to purchase disabled veteran license plates with no initial fee or renewal fee. (Rep S. Heavrin)
7. Amend KRS 132.810 to expand the homestead exemption in the Constitution to include surviving un-remarried spouses of totally disabled veterans of the United States Armed Forces. (No Sponsor Yet)



Veterans Advocacy 2020 Legislative Priorities

8. HB 17: Designate the Honor and Remember flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the US Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty. (Reps. C. Massey, L. Bechler, K. Bratcher, J. Gooch Jr., D. Lewis, K. Moser, M. Prunty, B. Reed, S. Riley, B. Rowland, D. Schamore, W. Thomas, S. Westrom, B. Wheatley)
9. SB 37: Amend definition of Veteran-owned Business. (Sen. D. Parrett)
10. BR 109: Veteran Suicide Memorial Mile Interstate-75 in Whitley County. (Rep. R. Huff)
11. BR 974: Amend KRS 159.075 Pre-enrollment and Preadmission of Military child to include transfers from Active Duty to Reserve Component and to waive Tuition Exception fees for military families living in temporary housing outside the school district. (Rep. M. Koch)
12. Amend KRS 40.317 to remove requirement for KDVA to employ no fewer than five Veteran Benefits Regional Administrators. (No Sponsor Yet)

Serving Kentucky's Veterans

Recent Successes

- **Top Rated Veterans Centers** - In October 2019, **for the first time ever – all of Kentucky's state veterans long-term care centers earned the top rating (5-Stars)** from the federal agency that oversees long-term care facilities.* The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily.
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**National Cemetery Administration (1 August 2019). Veterans Cemetery Grants Compliance Review Program; *Preliminary Findings Report for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North*

Recent Successes

- **Top Quality Awards** - In November 2019, two employees of the Paul E. Patton Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center in Hazard, KY received **Professional Achievement Awards** from the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities:
 - Charlotte Cornette, Caregiving Award
 - Greg Gilbert, Nursing Care Award
- **Citizen of the Year** - In November 2019, KDVA Field Representative Wendi Maxwell was named Independence, KY's Citizen of the Year for her work helping veterans.

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Major Events

Spring 2020

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kentucky Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

Capitol, Frankfort, KY

June 12-13, 2020

Veterans Engagement Action Center (VEAC)

One-stop shop for Veteran Benefits, Counseling, and Services

Lexington Christian Academy

450 W. Reynolds Road, Lexington, KY

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Questions

Contact us at



www.veterans.ky.gov



Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs



@kyveterans



kyveteransaffairs



(502) 564-9203

For an electronic copy of this presentation go to the KDVA website at
<https://veterans.ky.gov/otherprograms/Pages/JECVO.aspx>.